additional gas from the mid-and south Tapti fields has been approved by the MC of the field. The plan is at present under implementation and additional production is likely to commence from mid-2007.

In the meanwhile, as per the terms of the PSC, the Tapti JV has been allowed to market JV gas, including additional gas, at market related prices. Therefore, the Pipavav Project developers has to tie-up their gas requirement with the JV concerned at market-related price.

Since the allocation for the Pipavav Power Project was tied up with the Tapti Field, and the price of gas that would be available after additional development of the field is governed by the PSC signed between the operator and the Government, the Government of Gujarat have been advised by the Central Government to directly approach the Tapti JV for a gas tie-up for the proposed project at a mutually negotiated price.

Complaints against IGL

2998. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints against Indraprastha Gas Limited regarding deposits of some amounts for pipelines in Vasant Kunj area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action Government have taken/ propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYER): (a) Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) have been receiving inquiries regarding the status of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) supply in the Vasant Kunj area from residents who have registered themselves for such connections.

(b) IGL have reported that in the year 2003, they had initiated the registration process for Piped Natural Gas in the Vasant Kunj area against a payment of Rs. 500 as registration fee. Initially, only 500 registrations were received from 24 pockets of Vasant Kunj area. In the year 2004, after obtaining initial permissions from the local authorities, work was started in three pockets: C-6, and C-9. These pockets were initially

selected because of their proximity to the District Regulating Stations (DRS) of IGL, as also because a majority of the registrations were from these three pockets.

Additional registrations were also received from pockets B-11, C-3 & C-8, and the total number of registration in Vasant Kunj area increased to 945. However, till date IGL have been able to provide PNG conenctions to only 379 consumers.

The progress of work for providing PNG connections was severely affected owing to inadequate cooperation from the Residents Welfare Associations (RWAs) of these pockets and interference from the local authorities inspite of IGL's paying them the land restoration charges for laying gas pipelines.

IGL plan to refund the deposit (initial registration money @ Rs. 500/- per house) with admissible interest since cooperation from the RWAs is not forthcoming.

Alternative for LPG

2999. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing shortage of LPG at present;

(b) if so, the annual requirement and availability of LPG at present;

(c) whether there is any proposal to substitute any other fuel for LPG;

(d) if so, the details in this regard and how the alternative fuel is proposed to be procured; and

(e) whether the same would be supplied to the consumers at the same price as that approved for LPG for the domestic consumers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) LPG requirements are met by a combination of domestic production and imports. A temporary shortage of LPG emerged in September 2005 on account of various factors. PSU production in the period April—September, 2005 was 303 (Thousand Metric Tonne) TMT less than planned; Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL)